MANITOBA

FIREARM ACCIDENTS

REPORT

Hunting and Non-Hunting
1997

Hunter and Firearm
Safety Program

Manitoba
Natural Resources

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please write to the Coordinator, Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, Box 44, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 3W3, or phone 945-6644.

SUMMARY

During 1997 there were 8 firearm related accidents. In 1996 there was also 8 and 15 in 1995. Three of these accidents were self-inflicted. There were no hunting related fatal accidents. Three of the accidents involved shooters under 18 years of age, compared to 1 in 1996.

Six of the eight reported accidents were not directly related to hunting. Of the two remaining accidents, none occurred during a licenced hunting season.

Of the 8 reported accidents, 6 occurred at a distance of less than ten yards, one at a distance of 10-50 yards, and one at an unknown distance. There were two accidents involving a loaded firearm in a vehicle. One of the eight accidents involved a graduate of a Hunter Safety Program - non-fatal. One of the accidents involved a graduate of the R.C.M.P. Firearm Training Course.

The Manitoba Hunter Safety course was completed by 2,101 students in 1997, up slightly from the 2,086 in 1996. 128,131 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the total, 155 have later become involved in a firearm accident which represents only .12%.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	1996	1997
Victim out of sight of shooter.	1	1
Victim moved into line of fire.	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.	1	0
Victim mistaken for game.	3	0
Shooter stumbled and fell.	0	0
Using firearm as club.	1*	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object.	0	0
Loaded firearm in vehicle.	0	2
Firearm fell from insecure rest.	0	0
"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".	0	2(1)*
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm.	0	0
Loading.	0	0
Unloading.	0	1
Defective firearm	1	0
Cleaning firearm	0	0
Loaded firearm in the home.	0	0
Accidental discharge.	0	1*
Ricochet.	0	1
Other	1	0
* Indicates fatal accident		
Total	8	8

Average firearm accidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994-1997	9.3

SYNOPSIS OF 1996 AND 1997 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	1996	1997
A. Total Number of Accidents	8	8
Fatal	1	2
Non-fatal	7	6
B. 1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season	5	0
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	4	0
2) Treaty Indian Hunting	2	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	2	1
3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	0	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	1
4) Non-hunting Accidents	1	6
Fatal in the home	0	0
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	0	2
Non-fatal in the home	0	1
Non-fatal in a vehicle	0	2
Non-fatal outside the home	1	1
C. Shooter Unknown	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
D. Accidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age	1	3
All Types of Hunting	0	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	1
Non-hunting	1	2
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	1	1

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	1996	1997
A. .22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	1	2
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	2
B. Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	0	2
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	2
C. Shotgun	7	3
Fatal	1	2
Non-fatal	6	1
D. Hand Gun	0	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	1
E. Pellet Gun	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
F. Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
Total	8	8

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	1996	1997
0 to 10 yards	3	6
10 to 50 yards	3	1
50 to 100 yards	1	0
over 100 yards	1	0
Distance Unknown	0	1

OCCURRENCES

Time of Day	1996	1997
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	1	0
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	2*	0
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	2	1
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	0	0
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	2	4
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	0	3
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	0	0
Unknown	1	0
By Day		
Sunday	1	2
Monday	2*	0
Tuesday	0	2
Wednesday	1	1
Thursday	1	1*
Friday	0	1*
Saturday	3	1
By Month		
January	0	1
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	0	2*
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	2*	2*
October	6	1
November	0	2
December	0	0

* Indicates one or more fatal

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENSES SOLD

	GAME BIRD	BIG GAME	TOTAL
1964	45,974	31,716	77,690
1970	45,822	47,156	92,978
1975	48,687	11,606*	60,293
1980	58,091	60,505	118,596
1985	35,342	52,541	87,883
1990	34,571	60,006	94,577
1995	24,504	67,639	92,143
1996	24,789	71,955	96,744
1997	23,272	63,093	86,365

*indicates closed deer season

COMPARISON OF TOTAL FIREARM ACCIDENTS-LICENSED HUNTING ACCIDENTS WITH TOTAL HUNTING LICENCES ISSUED

YEAR	TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	TOTAL FIREARM ACCIDENTS	LICENCED HUNTING ACCIDENTS
1980	118,596	22	6
1985	87,883	26	7
1990	94,577	22	6
1995	92,143	15	1
1996	96,744	8	5
1997	86,365	8	0

SUMMARY OF 1997 ACCIDENTS

The following summary of accidents related to the use of firearms serves as a useful lesson for everyone who enjoys shooting sports. Hunter Safety Instructors and their students should make a special effort to study each incident and analyze how the accident occurred. In most cases, one or more of the 10 commandments of Hunter Safety were violated. Don't let you or your friends be the cause of an accident recorded in next year's report.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. WATCH THAT MUZZLE! Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.
2. TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.
3. UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE, take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.
4. BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS, and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER; know identifying features of game you hunt.
6. NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT; avoid all horseplay.
7. NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN; never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER; at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, beyond reach of children.
10. AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES before or during shooting.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Wednesday Sept. 24 10:30 am	S - 48	No	9 mm pistol	10-50 yds	Non-hunting	No	Target practicing at a metal target, piece of lead ricocheted, striking shooter in the upper thigh.
Sunday Oct. 12 5:00 pm	S - 57	No	7 mm rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non-hunting	No	Shooter removing rifle from truck by the barrel when it discharged - grazing front left thigh.
Saturday Nov. 1 5:30 pm	S - 45 V - 24	No	30-30 rifle	Unknown	Deer - not licenced hunter	No	Shooter fired at a deer - victim out of sight - no hunter orange - victim in bush behind deer received wound to right thigh.
Tuesday Nov. 4 Evening	S - 30	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non-hunting	No	Shooter removing rifle from trunk of vehicle when it discharged causing wound to upper left chest/shoulder area.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Tuesday Jan. 14 8:30 pm	S - 14 V - 9	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non-hunting	Yes	Shooter accidentally shot his brother in living room - injury to mouth & neck area.
Sunday June 1 3:00 pm	S - 14 V - 8	No	Shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non game birds	No	Shooter was unloading shotgun when it discharged. Injury to left arm.
Thursday June 19 6:00 pm	S - 45 V - 22	Yes	Shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non-hunting	No	Victim reached for gun in workshop - shooter knowing the gun was loaded, grabbed for it to prevent victim from playing with it, when it discharged, striking victim in stomach.
Friday Sept. 5 4:30 pm	S - 10 V - 8	Yes	Shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non-hunting	No	Shooter and victim playing in shed - shooter pointed gun at victim unaware it was loaded - accidentally pulled the trigger resulting in chest wound.